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***VIRGINIA JOINS FEDERAL DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS
IN HISTORIC POLLUTION PREVENTION AGREEMENT***

RICHMOND, VA. -Governor Jim Gilmore and Virginia environmental officials today joined federal representatives from the Department of Defense, the Environmental Protection Agency and defense installations in the Commonwealth in signing a partnership charter to work cooperatively in promoting the use of pollution prevention techniques at military facilities.

"I'm very pleased that defense installations and EPA are joining Virginia in this pollution prevention initiative," Governor Gilmore said. "This cooperative agreement will strengthen the ability each of has individually to take positive steps that conserve our natural resources and improve the quality of Virginia's environment."

"The Department of Defense recognizes that our bases are not islands in the middle of nowhere," Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security) Sherri W. Goodman, said. "We are integral parts of the communities that surround us. This pollution prevention partnership with the citizens of Virginia indicates our commitment to work together to stop pollution before it starts. Through partnerships and trust everybody wins: the environment, citizens and the military."

The partnership will focus on identifying opportunities for preventing pollution, to reduce the amount of pollutants entering the environment or eliminate them entirely. The group will consist of environmental managers from DEQ, defense installations and EPA, who will meet on a regular basis to meet these goals: reviewing five pollution prevention practices common to defense installations and possibly transferring them to the private sector within two years; and initiating at least four cooperative projects among the participants every 18 months.

"We are looking forward to significant, measurable successes," Secretary of Natural Resources John Paul Woodley, Jr., said. "This is the first agreement of its kind in Virginia involving federal and defense agencies, so we now have an important new tool in our efforts to protect the environment for all Virginians."

About two dozen participants signed the charter at a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda.

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